

LA MIRADA
(Antonio Mario Castro Adobe)
720 Via Mirada
Monterey
Monterey County
California

HALS CA-58
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

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HALS NO. CA-58

- Location:** 720 Via Mirada, Monterey, Monterey County, CA.
Lat: 36.59456 Long: -121.88867 (Maude Work Rose Garden, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).
- Significance:** The property is associated with Antonio M. Castro who built one of the three original buildings in the area in the early 1800s. It is also associated with John C. Fremont, a U.S. Senator, who had a successful gold mining operation in Mariposa County; with Gouverneur Morris, a writer and great grandson of the American Statesman of the same name; and with Thomas Albert Work, Sr., a successful land developer.
- Description:** The garden is enclosed by a chalk rock stone wall that is an extension off the back of the Antonio Mario Adobe and connects to another adobe building on the property. The stones are rough and irregularly-shaped, nearly white in color except where they are covered by lichens. The height of the wall varies from about 30 inches to 7 feet where it has buttresses. There are two wooden gates into the garden – one a simple board fence with a round, bronze knocker, and the other more elaborate and set in a classical stone peaked arch, in poor condition.
- The garden beds occur on three levels and consist of beds edged with brick set on end and half buried. Beds are separated by brick paths about 4 feet wide in a basket weave pattern. One bed is terraced with a chalk rock stone wall about 20 inches high, in poor condition.
- Beds are bordered with hens and chick succulents and planted almost exclusively with roses. The garden includes one old fig and an old, multi-trunk bay tree.
- The site now serves as the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art. Several buildings have been added to the complex with connecting patios. One patio space (approximately 20 feet x 20 feet) is paved in square, 12 inch terra-cotta tiles, and has a 6 foot square area in the middle paved with brick in a basket weave pattern; this area may have originally been a planting bed.
- Another larger brick patio is located north of the Castro adobe and appears to be newer than the original walled rose garden. The planting around this patio is more varied.
- There is also an additional garden area and gardener's work shed outside the stone wall that appears to be a relatively recent addition though the character is compatible.

History: The Antonio Mario Castro Adobe was built in the early 1800s. It is one of three buildings that appear on an 1849 map of Monterey. Castro was a soldier in California from 1780 to 1809. The home remained in the Castro family for a few generations until it was sold 1919. For a time John C. Fremont, his wife Jessie and their daughter Elizabeth rented two rooms in the adobe from Modesto Castro until Fremont was elected to the U.S. Senate and they moved to Washington. They spent the Christmas of 1849 in the adobe and the following January left for Washington.

Gouverneur Morris purchased the adobe in 1920. He restored the adobe, added other buildings and built the wall around the garden for privacy. Morris, a descendent of a signer and author of the U.S. Constitution of the same name, was also a writer and the Director of Monterey Bank.

Thomas Albert Work, Sr. purchased the property in 1936. He made his fortune in land and real estate. Work planted the cypress, pine and other trees surrounding the property. Work's wife, Maude Porter created the rose garden before her death in 1949.

The rose garden was rehabilitated in 1989 when many new roses were added and some of the original roses were retained. One Cecile Brunner rose with a mass of knotty root stock was labeled 1881/1894.

Thomas and Maude's son Frank Work inherited the property and maintained the garden until he deeded it to the museum in 1983.

Sources: Freeman, Cathleen A. An essay written as part of a class assignment.

<http://www.mchsmuseum.com/lamirada.html>

Site visit, June 13, 2010.

Historian: Chris Pattillo, Historic Landscape Architect, PGAdesign
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July 3, 2010



Maude Work rose garden within chalk rock wall built by Gouverneur Morris in the 1920s or early 1930s (Chris Pattillo, June 13, 2010). Brick paths are edged with soldier bricks and hen and chick border plantings.



Classic arch gate in chalk rock perimeter wall (Chris Pattillo, June 13, 2010).